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Occupations.	No.	Occupations.	No.
Engineers	44	Pensioners	21
Coopers	38	Toy-makers and turners	20
Servants out of place	35	Brick and tile-makers	19
Hawkers of fruit	34	Greengrocers	18
Comb-makers	32	Soapboilers	17
Maltsters and brewers	32	Pig and cattle-drivers	16
Brothel-keepers and prostitutes	32	Cab-drivers	15
Basket-makers	30	Confectioners	15
Hatters	30	Lodging-house keepers	15
Travellers	30	Midwives and nurses	15
Weavers	29	Trunk and box-makers	14
Gardeners	28	Hairdressers	13
Schoolmasters	28	Clock-makers	12
Spinners of flax and twine	27	Match-makers	12
Provision-sellers	26	Mechanics	12
Plumbers and block-makers	25	Shipwrights and carpenters	11
Rope and sacking-makers	25	Tobacconists	11
Wheel and millwrights	25	Harness and saddle-makers	10
Basket-women	24	Tin-plate workers	10
Milkmen	23	Other occupations giving employ- ment to less than 10 persons each	207
Police	23	No calling, incapable of work	176
Chair-makers	22		
Dealers in coal	22		
Ironfounders and ironmongers	22		
Coachmakers	21	Total	5681

Report on the State of Education among the Working Classes in the Parish of West Bromwich.

IN the year 1837 two gentlemen residing near West Bromwich determined to institute a statistical inquiry into the state of education among the labouring classes in that parish, and for that purpose employed two agents to visit every family of that class. These persons noted the following particulars relating to each family, in a form with which they were provided, and were thus occupied for the space of several weeks.

West Bromwich is in the county of Stafford, about seven miles from Birmingham, with which town it is intimately connected. The number of families of the working class residing in the parish, with children under their roof, was 2193. About 550 other families were visited, but when it was found that they had no children living with them no further questions were asked. In some of these instances the children had left their parents for employment or other objects, and in others the parties consisted of young couples who had no children. No family belonging to the working class is known to have been passed over. The following abstract of the trades and occupations followed by the heads of the families will afford an exact notion of the character of the population. In a small number of cases the trade could not be exactly defined, and in some the father was dead:—

TRADES OR OCCUPATIONS OF HEADS OF FAMILIES IN WEST BROMWICH.

Connected with the manufactures of the neighbourhood.		Miscellaneous.	
Nature.	No.	Nature.	No.
Annealers of cast-iron ware	7	Boatmen employed on canals	27
Blacksmiths	91	Brewers	8
Boiler-makers	22	— retail	26
Casters in iron	117	Bricklayers	44
Clerks, rough; stock takers in iron works	11	Brickmakers	21
Coachsmiths	36	Butchers	16
Coal-pit sinkers	14	Carpenters	39
Cover (iron) makers	6	Carters	24
Engineers, or men attending steam-engines	40	Coopers	5
Filers of iron work	19	Fruiterers	5
— iron hinges	11	Gardeners	7
— gun-locks	18	Hucksters	19
— pistol-locks	17	Painters	8
Forgemen	65	Plasterers	5
Glass (crown window) makers	38	Plumbers	4
Iron works, men employed in	35	Sawyers	16
Miners or colliers	422	Shoemakers	54
Nailers, working at their own houses	137	Stonemasons	5
Packers	7	Tailors	15
Puddlers in iron-works	60	Bailiffs, gas-workers, saddlers, slaters, wheelwrights, each 3	15
Screw (wood) makers	4	Bakers, barbers, basket-makers, boat-builders (for canals), drovers, watchmen at works, each 2	12
Teasers or melters of iron in foundries	12	Carman, carrier, chair-bottom-maker, chimney-sweep, confectioner, horse-dealer, jeweller, maltster, mop-maker, pump-maker, tallow-chandler, tinman, each 1	12
Tinners of cast-iron hollow ware	11		
Turners	9	Total Miscellaneous	387
— of cast-iron hollow ware	26	Day-labourers	375
Makers of bayonets, charcoal-blackening for foundries, patten-rings, and steel tools, grinders of iron goods, each 3	15	Unenumerated	163
Makers of balances, bottle-jacks, bridle-bits, and steel ornaments, brass-founders, and iron cover-stampers, each 2	12	Total	925
Maker of bone-buttons, iron-shearer, iron roll turner, mill-wright, moulder of cast-iron ware, saddlers' ironmonger, each 1	6	Employed in manufactures	1268
Total	1268	Total	2193

It will be seen how large a proportion of the population is engaged in manufactures; for if only one-half of the day-labourers and of persons whose occupations could not be defined be considered as employed in foundries and workshops, the manufacturing will exceed the miscellaneous population by 134 per cent.

Of the total number of families—

16	or	0.7	per cent.	had	1	room.
418	or	19.0			2	„
578	or	26.4			3	„
1181	or	53.9			4	„

Total 2193

1532, or 70 per cent., had gardens, which appears a large proportion in a purely manufacturing district; 192 kept a pig, and 8 a cow.

In 32 families (1.5 per cent. of the whole number), the mother was not alive; 57 mothers could sew, knit, wash, brew, bake, and make butter; in 301 they could do all but make butter, and in the remaining cases (1803), they could all sew, knit, wash, and bake. 1870 families had Bibles, 323 had no Bibles nor other books. The number of children residing with their parents was 7803—of these, 1428 were above 14 years, and 6375 below that age:—

Of those above 14	389	or 27.2	per cent.	could read and write.
„	568	or 39.8	„	read only.
„	471	or 33.	„	neither read nor write.
	1428			

Of the same number 1204 were employed in the parish and 29 out of it, while 195, or only 13 per cent. were unemployed.

Of the children under 14	2702	or 42.4	per cent.	went to school.
„	3103	or 48.7	„	did not go to school.
„	570	or 8.9	„	were too young for school, being under 2 years of age.
	6375			

Of the number at school	298	or 11	per cent.	could	read and write.
„	1920	or 71	„	read only.	
„	484	or 18	„	neither read nor write.	
	<u>2702</u>				

Of the same number	235	or	8.7	per cent.	attend	national	schools.
„	188	or	7.		„	infant	do.
„	1131	or	41.9		„	private	do.
„	1148	or	42.4		„	Sunday	do.*
	2702						

The character of the instruction, and the rates of charge, in the private schools, were as follows:—

480	children	paid	2d. or 3d.	a	week	for	learning	the	alphabet	at	dame	schools.
458	„		4d. or 5d.								to	read, and sew, if required.
193	„		6d. or 9d.								to	read, write, and cast accounts.

By means of the above information we are enabled to compare the state of education among a manufacturing population, with that which exists among an agricultural and a miscellaneous town population, of which specimens are given in the present number of the Journal.†

The collection of facts upon these subjects is of the highest importance and use to those who are occupied in endeavours to improve the physical and intellectual condition of their fellow-men, and it is a matter for rejoicing that the attention of numerous societies and individuals is at present directed to it in several parts of the country.

* When the inquiry was taken there was no Sunday-school connected with the Church of England; those in existence were attached to the meeting-houses of Dissenters.

† See pp. 297, 303, 375.